

I CLAIM:

1. A method for cleaning industrial lubricants used in industrial processes, the method comprising providing a centrifugal separator apparatus connected as a bypass or in-line filter in the lubricating or washing fluid tank, the apparatus including a centrifugal separator having a casing and a rotor rotatably mounted in the casing, a centrifugal pump provided between the tank and the inlet of the separator, and a source of compressed air provided connected to the casing of the separator, some of the fluid from the tank being pumped by the centrifugal pump into the separator to cause the rotor to rotate and impinge the fluid on the casing at a rotational force of between about 1000g and about 2000g and clean the fluid, the cleaned fluid being returned to the tank, a control panel monitoring the operation of the separator and controlling the pump and source of compressed air to maintain the rotational force of the separator within the range.

2. A centrifugal separator apparatus for use as a bypass or in-line filter in cleaning fluid utilized in industrial applications, the apparatus comprising a centrifugal separator having a casing and a rotor rotatably mounted in the casing, a centrifugal pump between the tank and the inlet of the separator for pumping some of the fluid from the tank into the separator to cause the rotor to rotate at a speed sufficient to provide a rotational force of the fluid impinging on the casing of between about 1000g and about 2000g to thereby clean the fluid, a source of compressed air connected to the casing of the separator for maintaining the volume of air in the casing, and a control panel for monitoring the operation of the separator and for controlling the pump and source of compressed air to maintain the rotational force of the separator within the range.